



Docket No. 4742

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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1-23-B
File #

In re the patent application of Ford et al.

Serial No. 09/493652

Filing date: January 28, 2000

Title: Mail Location Apparatus

Group Art Unit 3722 -- Examiner Mackey

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please amend claims 12 and 24 as on the attachment.

REMARKS

This is a reply to the office action of July 12, 2002.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected the independent claims (claims 12, 24 and 25) as being unpatentable over Salomon (U.S. Patent 5640903).

In response to this objection, claims 12 and 24 have been amended so as more clearly to distinguish the claimed invention over Salomon.

Claim 12 as amended recites that the face of the sensor unit is an elongate face which is engageable by a mail item and inclined to both first and second directions such as to be engaged by the corner of the mail item where the mail item is inserted in the first direction, the second direction and any direction intermediate thereto.

Salomon does not disclose or suggest a sensor unit which includes such an elongate face.

The Examiner has indicated that the second projection (19b) of the arm (19) in Salomon is considered to provide a face for engagement with a mail item, and in particular that a section of the second projection (19b) is inclined to first and second directions. The second projection (19b) of the arm (19) does not, however, include an elongate section as now required by the claimed invention, that is, an elongate face which is engaged by the

